



Karen Preece
Programme Director
National Commissioning Programme

6 November 2023

Dear Karen,

Welsh Government policy view on Chief Ambulance Services Commissioner (CASC) role

Further to the submission of options re Tier 1 and 2 structures for the new joint commissioning committee, I am writing to provide clarity on the Welsh Government policy view of the CASC role and the seniority of leadership required to commission ambulance services and the NHS 111 Wales service.

Officials have sought the views of Ministers in respect to the requirement, from a policy perspective, for the CASC role in the to-be-established joint commissioning committee.

To confirm, there is no expectation that the existing CASC role continues to exist in new structures although we do not have a definitive policy position on whether the role, in its current title, should continue to exist or not.

However, our policy view is clear in that we need to remain as faithful possible to the principles set out in the *McClelland review* (2013). The review set out the requirement for more robust commissioning mechanisms for ambulance services with clear alignment of accountability, funding and governance arrangements.

On review of some of the range of options for Tier 1 and 2 structures that are presently under consideration, we are concerned there is a risk these requirements will not be met.

For example, we feel a director level officer should be made specifically responsible for ambulance and NHS 111 Wales commissioning given this is commensurate with the principles of McClelland, the public expectation around these services and the

profile and frequency of scrutiny attached to them. Further, it is important that an ambulance commissioning team as described in the EASC regulations and directions, and established to enable commissioning responsibilities to be undertaken reliably, is maintained.

It is worth noting, as a symbol of the profile of the role, that commissioning of ambulance services (including NEPTS and EMRTS) and NHS 111 Wales is currently led separately by two director level individuals. And that both individuals frequently engage with, and provide advice to, Ministers on the service areas for which they are responsible for commissioning.

I hope this policy steer is clear and helpful for you and the implementation board as you continue to design structures for the new joint commissioning committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'S. Edmonds'.

Samia Edmonds MBE
Planning Director
Health and Social Services Group
Welsh Government

cc: Chris Turner
Kate Eden
Stephen Harray